

I'm 'only' hard of hearing, but I must rely on closed captions to watch TV. Without the captions, I just miss too much. Even with my state-of-the-art FM assistive listening device, the captions are still absolutely essential.

I look forward to the 2006 mandate that will require more programming to be captioned. I urge you to not relax the captioning requirements. Millions of people with hearing loss should have the opportunity for entertainment, education, news, weather and emergency information. It should be the responsibility of the program developers and distributors to make their products accessible to all ... the cost is trivial compared to the industry financials.

Deaf people certainly deserve captions, but what many people don't know is that there are many more hard of hearing people who also need captions, too.